Customs, no case of import of DDT and capacitor fluid containing polychlorinated biphenyl from Japan has been noticed. According to the Hazardous Wastes (Management Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2008, no import of hazardous wastes for dumping purposes is permitted. Also wastes consisting of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and waste pesticides including DDT which are off-specification, outdated, and /or unfit for their originally intended use, are prohibited for import and export as per Schedule VI of the aforesaid Rules.

Emission norms

664. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to extend Bharat Stage-IV emission norms for four-wheelers to 11 identified mega cities and Bharat Stage-III, emission norms throughout the country from April 2010; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken by Government to ensure that these norms are extended in identified areas on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir. As per Auto Fuel Policy of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government is to introduce Euro-III equivalent emission norms in the entire country and Euro-IV equivalent emission norms for both petrol & diesel four wheeler vehicles in 11 cities, namely, Delhi/National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Surat, Pune, Kanpur and Agra from 1st April 2010.

(b) Oil Companies have undertaken fuel quality upgradation projects for supply of required upgraded fuel by the target date of 1st April 2010.

Climate change in the country

665. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Centres to monitor climate change in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the locations, State-wise;

(c) whether financial assistance has been provided to various State Governments for development and promotion of Environmental projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Government of India, under the aegis of National Action Plan on Climate Change launched in June 2008, envisages implementation of eight National Missions in several thematic areas to address the concerns of climate change. Indian Meteorological Department collects data on meteorological information through a countrywide network of observatories.

(c) and (d) Funds are provided under the central and centrally sponsored schemes to the State Government *inter-alia* for implementing the schemes such as National River/Lake Conservation Plan and Pollution abatement measures for conservation of identified rivers and lakes. During the

2007 - 08, a total of Rs.24193.47 lakhs and Rs.6271.04 lakhs have been released under the National River Conservation Plan and National Lake Conservation Plan respectively.

Wastage of products into coastal areas

666. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some foreign companies have dumped the wastage of their products into our coastal areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) whether Government has given any instruction to the State Governments who allowed foreign companies to dump their wastage which will cause severe negative consequences to the land and future generations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the Central Board of Excise and Customs, no case of dumping of waste from the foreign companies has been noticed into our coastal areas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Damage caused by plastic

667. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the extent of damage caused by plastic in the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by Government for the protection of environment; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and how far the public shall suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Plastics *per se* is not hazardous to environment. Plastics being non-biodegradable can be recycled many times, thereby has certain advantages over other materials like metals. Indiscriminate littering, improper collection and treatment may result in choking of drains, cattle's death on ingestion and making land infertile.

(c) and (d) The Government has notified "Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999 as amended in 2003" to regulate use and manufacturing of Plastics carry bags, containers and recycling of plastics waste. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for creating environmental awareness for management of plastics.

Development of forest villages of West Bengal

†668.SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new schemes being formulated by Government for the development of forest villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.